

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BAR - BENCH - MEDIA CONFERENCE**

A meeting of the Bar-Bench-Media Conference was held on Thursday, June 29, 1993 at 12:30 p.m. in the Supreme Court Conference Room in Wilmington. The meeting was opened to the public. Notice of the meeting had been posted. The members of the Conference in attendance were:

### **Members from the Print News Media**

Ms. Rita Katz Farrell  
Mr. John Sweeney  
Mr. John Taylor

### **Members from the Electronic News Media**

Ms. Marilyn Buerkle  
Mr. Allan R. Loudell  
Mr. William D. Osborne  
Mr. Michael Sigman

### **Members from the Bench**

Vice Chancellor Jack B. Jacobs  
Judge Jay Paul James  
Judge Roderick R. McKelvie

### **Members from the Bar**

Howard M. Handelman, Esquire  
Rosemary K. Killian, Esquire  
Harvey B. Rubenstein, Esquire

Bill Osborne called the meeting to order. The minutes of the previous

meeting were approved after corrections were made to the membership terms of several members.

Bill explained the purpose of the meeting, as outlined in his June 16, 1993 memorandum, was to discuss the formation of committees to prepare a report on the proposed expansion of electronic and photographic news media coverage to the Delaware trial courts. Bill reviewed the six areas in which he proposed that committees be formed. After a discussion, the proposed six committees were consolidated into three committees. The first committee will address philosophical and legal issues. This committee will be comprised of Marilyn Buerkle, Rita Farrell, Howard Handelman, Allen Loudell, Harvey Rubenstein, Chief Magistrate Richardson, and John Sweeney. The second committee will conduct a survey of other jurisdictions. This committee will be comprised of James Flood, Vice Chancellor Jacobs, Joshua Martin, Judge McKelvie, Bob Mercer, Mary Sherlock, and John Taylor. The third committee will address technical feasibility, rules and guidelines, and equal access issues. This committee will be comprised of Tamra Brittingham, Judge James, Rosemary Killian, Allen Loudell, President Judge Ridgely and Mike Sigman. The committees are to be fact finders to provide information to the entire Conference for the preparation of the report. The committees are to meet concurrently and may use sources of information that are

outside the membership of the Conference. Bill Osborne emphasized that the aim of the Conference in preparing the report should be to arrive at a consensus on the expansion of coverage issue. Bill said that a minority position would be included in the report.

The Conference requested that the committee assigned to conduct a survey of other jurisdictions compile any relevant scientific or psychological studies that have been done concerning the effect of electronic and photographic news media coverage of courtroom proceedings. Steve Taylor volunteered to contact all State Court Administrators to obtain copies of their rules or any reports on electronic and photographic news media access to trial courts. Steve will also contact the National Center for State Courts.

The next agenda item was a discussion of Harvey Rubenstein's draft of bylaws that were prepared at Bill Osborne's request for the Conference. Harvey emphasized that this draft was not comprehensive and was offered to begin a discussion of how the Conference should be structured and function. After a brief discussion by the Conference, it was decided that a committee should be appointed to review the Conference's Constitution and proposed bylaws. The members of the Conference assigned to the committee are Vice Chancellor Jacobs, Justice Holland, Bill Osborne, Harvey Rubenstein, and John Taylor. A copy of the

Conference's original Constitution is included with these minutes as well as a retyped draft of the bylaws.

At the end of the meeting, Bill Osborne scheduled the next meeting of the Conference for Thursday, September 9, 1993 in Wilmington at a location to be announced at a later date. An agenda with the location of the next meeting will be mailed to the Conference on Monday, August 30, 1993. If any Conference member wishes to have an item placed on the agenda, please contact Bill Osborne or Steve Taylor by Friday, August 27, 1993.

A copy of an article distributed by John Taylor at the last meeting and a revised list of the Conference members with terms of office are included.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rosemary Hillman*

*by*

*Stephen D. Taylor*

Date: July 21, 1993

## **D R A F T**

### **BYLAWS OF THE BAR-BENCH-MEDIA CONFERENCE**

1. Representation on the Conference shall be as heretofore.
2. The officers of the Conference shall be a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary-Treasurer who shall be the Supreme Court Court Administrator.
3. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by the Conference, shall be rotated among the Bar-Bench-Media representatives as heretofore, and shall serve for one year.
4. The Conference shall meet four times a year and at such other times as shall be called by the Chair and Vice-Chair.
5. The Conference shall establish committees as necessary, and the Chair shall appoint all members of the committees from among the Bar-Bench-Media representatives.

# **BAR-BENCH-MEDIA**

## **COMMITTEES**

### **1. Philosophical and Legal Issues**

**Marilyn Buerkle  
Rita Farrell  
Howard Handelman  
Allen Loudell  
Harvey Rubenstein  
Chief Magistrate Richardson  
John Sweeney**

### **2. Survey of Other Jurisdictions**

**Jim Flood  
Vice Chancellor Jacobs  
Joshua Martin  
Judge McKelvie  
Bob Mercer  
Mary Sherlock  
John Taylor**

### **3. Technical Feasibility, Rules and Guidelines, and Equal Access Issues**

**Tamra Brittingham  
Judge James  
Rosemary Killian  
Allen Loudell  
President Judge Ridgely  
Mike Sigman**

### **4. Constitution and Bylaws**

**Vice Chancellor Jacobs  
Justice Holland  
Bill Osborne  
Harvey Rubenstein  
John Taylor**

**BAR-BENCH-MEDIA CONFERENCE OF DELAWARE**

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TELEPHONE:

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